

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

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R 250944Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8518

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AINR, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS DISCONTINUE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECTORY
OF SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES

1. DIRECTOR OF "IZVESTIYA" PUBLISHING HOUSE HAS INFORMED PPO THAT COPIES OF "DEPUTATY VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SSSR" FOR NINTH CONVOCATION WERE DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO DEPUTIES AT DECEMBER 1974 SESSION. NO COPIES WERE PUT ON SALE. DIRECTOR CLAIMED THAT SMALL NUMBER OF PRINTED COPIES EXCLUDED FURTHER DISTRIBUTION.

2. COMMENT: PPO HAD BEEN TRYING TO SECURE COPY OF "DEPUTATY" SINCE DECEMBER 1974 AND FINALLY CONTACTED DIRECTOR OF PUBLISHING HOUSE. "DEPUTATY" IS THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND SUPPLIES PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPSULE BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL DEPUTIES, WHICH INCLUDES MOST POLITICAL

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LEADERS AND MANY OTHER HIGH-RANKING SOVIET LEADERS. THE BOOK

HAS BEEN AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR EMBASSY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES. THE SOVIET DECISION TO DENY THIS BOOK TO NON-OFFICIAL SOVIETS AND OTHER NATIONALS IS A CHANGE IN POLICY SINCE THE PREVIOUS EDITIONS WERE PUBLISHED QUADRENNIALLY ALTHOUGH IN SMALL EDITIONS. FOR INSTANCE, THE 1970 EDITION WAS ONLY 5,000 COPIES.

3. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW WERE TOLD THAT THE BOOK WAS SOLD OUT LONG AGO. BUT THE BOOK WAS NEVER ADVERTISED OR PUT ON SALE. EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT THIS DENIAL OF INFORMATION IS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF SUCH STEPS BY THE BREZHNEV REGIME SIMILAR TO DECISION IN 1965 TO END PUBLICATION OF STENOGRAPHIC RECORDS OF PARTY PLENUMS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE "DEPUTATY" BUT ASKS ALL EE POSTS TO TRY TO SECURE COPY FOR US AND INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES.
STOESSEL

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